

# **Exhibit R-5**



CALIFORNIA

## Children's Hospital L.A. stops initiating hormonal therapy for transgender patients under 19



Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 2020. (Dania Maxwell / Los Angeles Times)

**By Emily Alpert Reyes**

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- Children's Hospital Los Angeles, a major provider of care for transgender youth, says it is pausing the initiation of hormonal therapy for "gender affirming care patients" under the age of 19.

- The move comes one week after President Trump issued an [executive order](#) seeking to stop the use of puberty blockers, hormones and other medical procedures for transgender youth.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles said Tuesday that it is pausing the initiation of hormonal therapy for "gender affirming care patients" under the age of 19 as hospital officials assess last week's executive order from President Trump targeting gender-affirming care for young people.

The L.A. hospital, a major provider of care for transgender youth, also said it was maintaining an "existing pause" on gender-affirming surgeries for minors.

In a statement Tuesday, the hospital said it was continuing to carefully evaluate Trump's order last week "to fully understand its implications." Existing patients at CHLA already receiving hormonal treatment may continue with their course of care, a hospital official said.

Trump's [executive order](#) sought to stop the use of puberty blockers, hormones and other medical procedures for transgender youth under 19, declaring the U.S. will not fund or support "the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another." Trump has called such medical care a form of "chemical and surgical mutilation."

Many of the most sweeping changes sought by Trump, such as rewriting the rules for the Medicare and Medicaid programs that provide essential funding for hospitals, must go through the rulemaking process, healthcare experts have said. LGBTQ+ advocacy groups have stressed that the executive order will take time to implement.

Yet some U.S. hospitals and clinics have suspended care for transgender youth. The Trump administration touted that health systems in Colorado, Virginia and other states had paused such services or canceled appointments. In New York, the state attorney general recently warned hospitals that stopping such care would violate state law.

LGBTQ+ advocacy groups have vowed to fight the clampdown on gender-affirming care. Families of transgender youth [sued Tuesday](#) to try to stop the executive order, represented by the ACLU, Lambda Legal and other firms. Trump's executive orders violate the rights of transgender youth, the groups argued in a [legal filing](#), "by depriving them of necessary medical care solely on the basis of their sex and transgender status."

CHLA said its pause on initiating hormonal therapy for youth began Feb. 1.

In Los Angeles, two parents who spoke anonymously with The Times to protect the privacy of their children said that Children's Hospital Los Angeles had canceled appointments they had for gender-affirming care this week. One said their appointment, to replace a puberty blocker for a child that already had one, had been reinstated after they reached out to physicians.

The CHLA decision was cheered by the California Family Council, whose vice president Greg Burt credited the Trump administration for pressuring hospitals to halt procedures he called dangerous.

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"The long nightmare of medical institutions prioritizing radical gender ideology over science and ethics is beginning to end," Burt said in a statement. "We urge other hospitals across the nation to follow suit and end these harmful, unproven procedures on children once and for all."

Tony Hoang, executive director of Equality California, an LGBTQ+ civil rights group, called the move by the L.A. hospital alarming.

“Denying or delaying care has dangerous consequences for transgender young people and their families — and we strongly believe hospitals and providers in California must continue to fulfill their ethical and legal duty to care for their patients,” Hoang said in a statement.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has [stated](#) that it opposes any laws or regulations that discriminate against transgender people “or that interfere in the doctor-patient relationship.”

In a statement responding to questions about canceled appointments, CHLA said it “will continue to support our patients and their families with access to robust mental health and social support services, ensuring our patients continue to have access to high-quality care and the best possible health outcomes.”

Alejandra Caraballo, clinical instructor at the Cyberlaw Clinic at Harvard Law School, said that at this point, nothing in the order has compelled hospitals to suspend gender-affirming care for youth.

“There are no proposed rules,” she said. “None of this is actually following an actual law or regulation that has been enacted.”

Caraballo said that halting such care could also amount to unlawful discrimination at the state level if the same care is still provided to other young patients. CHLA said it was not halting hormonal therapy or puberty blockers for cisgender children who might be prescribed them for other medical purposes.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta has called the executive order from Trump “cruel and irresponsible” and said that families seeking gender-affirming care for their children, as

well as doctors and other medical staff who provide it, are protected by state laws in California.

A spokesperson for Bonta didn't immediately comment Tuesday on whether the move by CHLA complies with state law, saying that his office could not comment on any complaints it had received.

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